



The _____
First Congregational Church
of Woodstock _____

*Declaring, "Jesus Christ is the same, yesterday, today,
and forever." Hebrews 13:8*

April 4, 2021

Easter Celebration Service

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For assistance as we “gather” remotely and in-person to worship together.

April 4th, 2021

Ten-thirty

Welcome

Pastor Doug Warren

Prelude & Silent Prayer

❖ Call to Worship

1 Corinthians 15

Pastor: Jesus Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.

Congregation: O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?

Pastor: Death is swallowed up in victory.

Congregation: Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!

Pastor: Christ is risen!

Congregation: He is risen indeed!

All: Alleluia! Our Lord, Jesus, is risen from the dead! Death has been conquered!

❖ Hymn of Exultation

Number 286

Worship Christ, the Risen King!

Worship Christ, the Risen King!

He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Matt. 28:6

1. Rise, O church, and lift your voices, Christ has conquered death and hell.
 2. See the tomb where death had laid him, empty now, its mouth declares:
 3. Hear the earth protest and tremble, see the stone removed with power;
 4. Doubt may lift its head to murmur, scoffers mock and sinners jeer;
 5. We acclaim your life, O Jesus, now we sing your victory;

Sing as all the earth rejoices; resurrection anthems swell.
 "Death and I could not contain him, for the throne of life he shares."
 • all hell's minions may assemble, but cannot withstand his hour.
 but the truth proclaims a wonderful thought-ful hearts receive with cheer.
 sin or hell may seek to seize us, but your conquest keeps us free.

Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the risen King!
 Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the risen King!
 • He has conquered, he has conquered, Christ the Lord, the risen King!
 He is risen, he is risen, now receive the risen King!
 Stand in triumph, stand in triumph, worship Christ, the risen King!

Prayer of Adoration

Our Father, who is in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for Yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen

Collective Confession

Gracious Lord, we confess now that we dishonor You in our words and thoughts and deeds. Depending on our own strength we stumble; proclaiming our own goodness, we sin; glorying in our own righteousness we corrupt everything we touch. Turning our faces from You, Lord, we desire the things of this world to satisfy us. We pray now, Lord, for You to forgive all of our many sins; to cleanse the darkness from our lives, and to turn our faces and our hearts back towards You. We pray these things in the name of Your most precious Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Silent Reflection and Confession

Proclamation of Forgiveness

Romans 8:1

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

Description of Easter Offering Recipients

Special Music

Jonathan Denham

Scripture Reading

Matthew 16: 21 – 25

²¹ From that time Jesus began to show His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised up on the third day. ²² Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, “God forbid *it*, Lord! This shall never happen to You.” ²³ But He turned and said to Peter, “Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me; for you are not setting your mind on God’s interests, but man’s.”

²⁴ Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me. ²⁵ For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it; but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.

Pastor: The Word of the Lord!

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

❖ Hymn of Reflection

In Christ Alone

Words and Music by
Keith Getty and Stuart Townend

♩=60

VERSE

G D G A D/F#

1. In Christ a - lone my hope is found, He is my
2. In Christ a - lone, who took on flesh, full - ness of
3. There in the ground His bod - y lay, Light of the
4. No guilt in life, no fear in death, this is the

3 G D/F# Em7 G/A D G D G A D/F#

light, my strength, my song; This Cor - ner - stone, this sol - id Ground, firm through the
God in help - less babe! This gift of love and right - eous - ness, scorned by the
world by dark - ness slain; Then, burst - ing forth in glo - rious Day, up from the
pow'r of Christ in me; From life's first cry to fi - nal breath, Je - sus com -

7 G D/F# Em7 G/A D D/F# G D/F# A^{sus} A D/F#

fierc - est drought and storm. What heights of love, what depths of peace, when fears are
ones He came to save. Till on that cross as Je - sus died, the wrath of
grave He rose a - gain! And as He stands in vic - to - ry, sin's curse has
-mands my des - ti - ny. No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man, can ev - er

11 G Bm⁷ A^{sus} A G D G A D/F#

stilled, when striv-ings cease. My Com - fort - er, my All in All, here in the
 God was sat - is - fied. For ev - 'ry sin on Him was laid; Here in the
 'lost its grip on me; For I am His and He is mine, bought with the
 pluck me from His hand; Till He re - turns or calls me home, here in the

INSTRUMENTAL

15 G D/F# Em⁷ G/A D Am⁷

love of Christ I stand.
 death of Christ I live.
 pre - cious blood of Christ.
 pow'r of Christ I'll stand!

18 Em⁷ D D^{sus} D

The Sermon

Pastor Doug Warren

“A Foot Race with a Surprise Ending”

John 20: 1 – 9

Now on the first *day* of the week Mary Magdalene *came early to the tomb, while it *was still dark, and *saw the stone *already* taken away from the tomb. ² So she *ran and *came to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and *said to them, “They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him.” ³ So Peter and the other disciple went forth, and they were going to the tomb. ⁴ The two

were running together; and the other disciple ran ahead faster than Peter and came to the tomb first; ⁵and stooping and looking in, he *saw the linen wrappings lying *there*; but he did not go in. ⁶And so Simon Peter also *came, following him, and entered the tomb; and he *saw the linen wrappings lying *there*, ⁷and the face-cloth which had been on His head, not lying with the linen wrappings, but rolled up in a place by itself. ⁸So the other disciple who had first come to the tomb then also entered, and he saw and believed. ⁹For as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that He must rise again from the dead.

John 20: 30 – 31

³⁰Therefore many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.

❖ Hymn of Response

Number 277

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

Thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Cor. 15:57

1. "Christ the Lord is ris'n to - day," Al - - le - lu - ia!
 2. Vain the stone, the watch, the seal; Al - - le - lu - ia!
 3. Lives a - gain our glo - rious King; Al - - le - lu - ia!
 4. Soar we now where Christ has led, Al - - le - lu - ia!

sons of men and an - gels say; Al - - le - lu - ia!
 Christ has burst the gates of hell; Al - - le - lu - ia!
 where, O death, is now thy sting? Al - - le - lu - ia!
 fol - l'wing our ex - alt - ed Head; Al - - le - lu - ia!

raise your joys and tri - umphs high; Al - - le - lu - ia!
 death in vain for - bids his rise; Al - - le - lu - ia!
 Once he died, our souls to save; Al - - le - lu - ia!
 made like him, like him we rise; Al - - le - lu - ia!

sing ye heav'ns, and earth, re - ply. Al - - le - lu - ia!
 Christ has o - pened par - a - dise. Al - - le - lu - ia!
 where thy vic - to - ry, O grave? Al - - le - lu - ia!
 ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Al - - le - lu - ia!

5. Hail; the Lord of earth and heav'n! *Alleluia!*
Praise to thee by both be giv'n; *Alleluia!*
thee we greet triumphant now; *Alleluia!*
hail, the Resurrection, thou! *Alleluia!*

Charles Wesley, 1739

EASTER HYMN 7.7.7.al.
Lyra Davidica, 1708; alt.

Communion

❖ Communion Hymn

Number 479

Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling

Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling

He calls his own sheep by name. John 10:3

1. Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing for
 2. Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing, plead - ing for
 3. Time is now fleet - ing, the mo - ments are pass - ing, pass - ing from
 4. Oh! for the won - der - ful love he has prom - ised, prom - ised for

you and for me; see, on the por - tals he's wait - ing and watch - ing,
 you and for me? Why should we lin - ger and heed not his mer - cies,
 you and from me; shad - ows are gath - er - ing, death - beds are com - ing,
 you and for me; though we have sinned, he has mer - cy and par - don,

watch - ing for you and for me.
 mer - cies for you and for me? Come home, come home,
 com - ing for you and for me. Come home, come home,
 par - don for you and for me.

ye who are wea - ry, come home; ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly,

Musical score for the hymn "Jesus is calling". The score is written for a single melodic line in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are: "Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing, O sin - ner, come home!". The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a final cadence. Chord symbols are placed above the staff: C, G, C, G, D7, G, and 7.

Will L. Thompson, 1880

THOMPSON 11.7.11.7.ref.
Will L. Thompson, 1880

Benediction

Hebrews 13: 20 – 21

Pastor: Now the God of peace, who brought up from the dead the great Shepherd of the sheep through the blood of the eternal covenant, even Jesus our Lord, equip you in every good thing to do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever.

Congregation: **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

The Congregation may be seated after the Benediction for silent prayer.

Postlude

~~ Organist: Jonathan Denham ~~
~~ Please ensure cell phones are off ~~

The Easter Flowers are Given in Loving Memory of the Following:

C. Everett Koop by Cora Koop
Olga Rolland by Elaine Johnston
Fred Forthman by Dotti Forthman
Robert Powell and Janet Slater by Carol Powell
Richard and Evelyn Englishmen by Elaine Brown
Howard and Lois Lantman by Dick and Bonnie Atwood
Donald and Judith Atwood by Dick and Bonnie Atwood

Easter Offering Recipient

Galmi Hospital, in Niger, will be the recipient of our Easter sacrificial offering this year. Matt and Tara Megill, missionaries supported by us, are serving in Niger. Matt is the director of HIV & TB Programs and when asked about their needs, turned the focus to the hospital itself.

Galmi Hospital was built in 1950, outside the town of Galmi in south central Niger. The hospital began with one doctor but quickly expanded to a 56-bed facility. Today the hospital has 180 beds, three operating theatres, an HIV clinic, malnutrition center and an outpatient program that handles over 250 cases per day. Most of the doctors are missionaries but the nursing and medical support roles are covered by Nigeriens. This site will continue to be needed as a hospital for many years to come. Niger is one of the poorest and least developed countries in the world. According to the 2020 UN Human Development Index, Niger ranks 189th out of 189 countries. Many of the existing health facilities are cost prohibitive for the average Nigerien.

Galmi Hospital is often the only hospital that people can afford to use. Although government-run hospitals are subsidized for the care they provide, patients incur the cost of all medicines and/or materials. These must be purchased at private pharmacies which are beyond the means of the majority of Nigeriens. Galmi Hospital provides a comprehensive care for set fees that are within reason. Galmi Hospital also provides free care through our benevolent fund to people who would be rejected from government care, despite the severity of their condition due to their inability to pay. Galmi Hospital draws patients from across Niger. In this largely Muslim nation, only 0.3% of the population is Christian, and so this hospital with its evangelists and Christian proclamation represents a strategic Gospel center for

the nation. Every patient who visits the outpatient department will have the opportunity to hear the Gospel by means of the Jesus Film in the waiting room as well as their interaction with Christian doctors who are encouraged to take time with patients to share their faith and pray with them.

The ministry goals and vision for this project is to redevelop hospital facilities for the provision of high-quality medical care and to manage the redevelopment in ways that will not interrupt the provision of services. Also, the goal is to continue to shine the light of Jesus Christ in Niger through the provision of high-quality medical care.

The project has been ongoing, but there is still work to do on the construction of a new medical ward. Please pray about your part in this special opportunity to be a light in the land of Niger. All of our gifts will be an encouragement to Matt and the other doctors and medical staff serving there.

The online giving will be available from March 21st to April 18th. Go to fccw.net/donate to give electronically. Checks and cash may be given via the mail or the offering box on the table at church until to April 18th. Please put cash in an envelope and label Easter offering. Please make checks payable to FCCW and write on the memo line Easter Offering.

To learn more about Galmi Hospital go to <https://galmi.org/>

NO Young Adult Fellowship Group

Leadership Training Sessions 2021

Our training for prospective elder and deacon candidates will be open to any men who would like to grow in their own walk with the Lord. This year these sessions will be held on the second Saturday of the month starting in March and running through October. Each one will run from 9:00am until noon and will be available both in person and via Zoom. This month's topic will be Stewardship on April 10th. Hope to see you there!

To register, please email Terri at fccwinfo@gmail.com.

A Foot Race with a Surprise Finish

1. Peter and John Race to the Tomb Sunday Morning.

2. Because Jesus Is the Christ, He *Had* to Rise from the Dead.

3. What Does It Mean to Have Life in Jesus' Name?

CONCLUSION: Sunday morning Jesus wasn't dead anymore. The reality of His resurrection was just beginning to dawn on His followers and it would change them forever. It would give them life. What about you and me? We cannot see Him as they did, but we have their testimony and more importantly Jesus is still alive! He is the Christ. We are to believe and have life in His name.

Matthew 16: 21

From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that **he must** go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and **on the third day be raised**.

John 10: 7 – 15

⁷ So Jesus again said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. ⁸ All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹ I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. ¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. *I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.* ¹¹ I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹² He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³ He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. ¹⁴ I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵ just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and *I lay down my life for the sheep.*

Romans 4: 13 – 25

¹³ For the **promise** to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴ For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵ For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law there is no transgression.

¹⁶ That is why it *depends on faith*, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring—not only to the adherent of the law but also to *the one who shares the faith of Abraham*, who is the father of us all, ¹⁷ as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. ¹⁸ In hope he believed against hope, that he should become the father of many nations, as he had been told, “So shall your offspring be.” ¹⁹ He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was as good as dead (since he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah’s womb. ²⁰ No unbelief made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, ²¹ fully convinced that **God was able to do what he had promised**. ²² That is why his faith was “counted to him as righteousness.” ²³ But the words “it was counted to him” were not written for his sake alone, ²⁴ but for ours also. *It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord,* ²⁵ who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.

Taking Gathered Worship Home

Christ is risen! He is risen, indeed. Allelujah! Allelujah! Does the resurrection of Jesus give you hope? Why or why not? Let's look at His resurrection together this week and explore the greatest event in all of history.

Please use the devotional material below each day this week to praise Christ. Ask Jesus to teach us His ways that we may walk in them to accomplish His purposes.

Sunday Morning

READ **John 20:1-9; 30-31; Romans 4:13-25; Psalm 80:1-19**. DISCUSS, Why did Jesus have to die? Be specific. Why did He have to rise from the dead? What did He accomplish through His resurrection? Is His life now the grounding of all your hope in this life and the next? PRAY "Jesus, You are Lord of all. Please help us to submit to You in every aspect of our lives, individually, in our families, and together as a congregation at FCCW."

Sunday Evening

Young Adults Fellowship at **6:00** pm. *Please come to FCCW's Library!*

Monday

READ **John 2:18-22; 17:22-23; 20:1-9; 30-31; Matthew 16:21-25; 27:63**. DISCUSS, How did Jesus talk about His impending death before going to Calvary? Why is this significant? Why did Jesus die? What did His resurrection from the dead on the third day prove? MEDITATE on **John 2:22**. PRAY, "Lord, You have come just as You promised to do what only You could do as fully man and fully God."

Tuesday

READ **John 20:1-9; 30-31; Matthew 12:38-42; Jonah 1:17-3:10**. DISCUSS, what is the relationship between Jesus and Jonah? What is the significance of three days? God the Father returns both of them from the depths. Why? MEDITATE on **John 2:22**. PRAY, "Jesus, thank You for conquering death for us. Please enable us to repent."

Wednesday

READ **John 10:7-18; 20:30-31; 7:1-10** DISCUSS, Jesus says repeatedly, "I lay down my life ..." Why? What is the significance of His taking it back up again? How does this explain what is going on in His resurrection? MEDITATE on **John 2:22**. PRAY, "Jesus, thank You for fulfilling all that You promised. *You are a good and faithful Lord!* Help us serve you well."

Thursday

READ **John 5:24-40; 20:30-31; Acts 4:8-12**. DISCUSS, Eternal life with Christ is more than just unending life. What is life in Christ? How does our life in Christ now differ from others? How will it differ eternally? MEDITATE on **John 2:22**. PRAY, "Lord, teach us to walk in Your ways. Guide us in Your truth. Enable us to enjoy eternal life with You."

Friday

READ **John 20:1-9; 30-31; Romans 4:13-25; Psalm 80:1-19**. DISCUSS, How has God been teaching you from these passages this week? MEDITATE on **John 2:22**. PRAY for faithfulness at FCCW and revival throughout the area.

Saturday

PREPARE today for the worship service tomorrow. *Both live-stream & in-person services are available.*

READ **Acts 17:1-34**. Remember to invite your friends and neighbors to the worship service!

John 2: 22

"When therefore [Jesus] was raised from the dead,
his disciples remembered that he had said this,
and they believed the Scripture
and the word that Jesus had spoken."